

C. Amendment to the Claims

Please cancel claims 7-22 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claims 1, 23 and 24 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A porous material comprising a plurality of columnar pores and an area surrounding the pores, the area being an amorphous area containing C, Si, Ge or a combination thereof, wherein the porous material is formed on a substrate and the depth direction of the columnar pores is substantially perpendicular to the substrate.

2. (Original) A porous material according to claim 1, wherein the columnar pores are substantially unbranched.

3. (Original) A porous material according to claim 1, wherein the average interval between the centers of adjacent pores is 30 nm or less.

4. (Original) A porous material according to claim 1, wherein the average diameter of the columnar pores is 20 nm or less.

5. (Original) A porous material according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of pores have substantially the same depth direction.

6. (Original) A porous material according to claim 1, wherein the area contains aluminum.

7-22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) A filter comprising the porous material of claim 1 [[or 8]].

24. (Currently Amended) A mask material comprising the porous material of claim 1 [[or 8]].